

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135137
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: MEETING OF EXPERTS ON TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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PAGE 02 STATE 135137

REF: STATE 85455

1. DEPARTMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT MEETING OF EXPERTS
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 19 - 23
IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL) MUST BE POSTPONED. INVITATIONS TO
HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR THAT MEETING HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO
THE EMBASSIES OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS IN WASHINGTON BY NOTE

ON MARCH 31, 1978 (SEE REFTEL). MEETING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR IN RECOMMENDATION IX-3, WHICH ALSO SPECIFIED THAT CONSULTATIVE PARTIES SHOULD COMPILE AND EXCHANGE RELEVANT DATA ON ANTARCTIC TELECOMMUNICATION PROBLEMS PRIOR TO EXPERTS MEETING. POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING HAS BECOME NECESSARY DUE TO FAILURE OF CONSULTATIVE PARTIES TO EXCHANGE NECESSARY DATA. DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO RESCHEDULE MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 11-16, 1978.

2. TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONVEYED TO CONSULTATIVE PARTY EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON MAY 26 INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW. EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO INFORM THEM OF POSTPONEMENT AND PROPOSED RESCHEDULING OF EXPERTS MEETING, DRAWING ON POINTS IN NOTE. YOU MAY STATE IN ADDITION THAT WE REGRET ANY

INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY POSTPONEMENT, BUT THAT EXPERTS MEETING WOULD STAND LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN ABSENCE OF PRIOR EXCHANGE OF DATA CALLED FOR IN RECOMMENDATION IX-3. RESCHEDULING WILL ALLOW SUCH EXCHANGE ALONG WITH NECESSARY ANALYSES OF IT TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE MEETING TAKES PLACE.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF NOTE REFERRED TO IN PARA 2:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THEIR
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 135137

EXCELLENCIES, MESSIEURS AND MESDAMES THE CHIEFS OF MISSIONS OF THE GOVERNMENTS WHERE REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING UNDER THE ANTARCTIC TREATY IN LONDON FROM SEPTEMBER 19 TO OCTOBER 7, 1977, AND REFERS TO HIS NOTE OF MARCH 31, 1978 WHICH CONVEYED THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GOVERNMENTS TO SEND EXPERTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO A MEETING IN WASHINGTON, JUNE 19 THROUGH JUNE 23, 1978, TO DEAL WITH THE TASKS SET FORTH IN RECOMMENDATION IX-3 OF THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOTES THAT RECOMMENDATION IX-3 (PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3) PROVIDES FOR THE MEETING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS TO BE PRECEDED BY THE COMPILATION BY EACH GOVERNMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA ON THE TYPES OF TRAFFIC, MODES OF TRANSMISSION, TIMING, FREQUENCIES OF THEIR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SCHEDULES AND CURRENT EQUIPMENT OF THEIR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES IN THE ANTARCTIC, AS WELL AS ON PROJECTS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR BY DESIGNATING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, STATIONS CAPABLE OF REPLACING OTHERS IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWN AND TO FORWARD ALL SUCH DATA TO EACH

OF THE OTHER CONSULTATIVE PARTIES VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS
ON THE ONE HAND, AND ON THE OTHER BY DIRECT DISPATCH TO THE
DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FURTHER NOTES THAT THIS PRIOR
EXCHANGE OF DATA, NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME
OF THE MEETING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS, HAS NOT
TAKEN PLACE. THEREFORE, THE SECRETARY REGRETS THAT IT IS
NECESSARY TO POSTPONE THE MEETING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
EXPERTS TO PERMIT THE NECESSARY EXCHANGE AND ANALYSIS OF
DATA BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES TO BE
ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE REQUESTS THE CHIEFS OF MISSIONS TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 135137

CONVEY THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO SEND EXPERTS IN TELECOMMUNI-

CATIONS TO A RESCHEDULED MEETING IN WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER
11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 1978 TO DEAL WITH THE TASKS SET
FORTH IN RECOMMENDATION IX-3, PROVIDED THAT THESE NEW DATES
MEET WITH THE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
CONSULTATIVE PARTIES. THE SECRETARY FURTHER REQUESTS THAT
THE EXCHANGE OF DATA, CALLED FOR IN RECOMMENDATION IX-3.
BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1, 1978 SO THAT THE RESCHEDULED
EXPERTS MEETING CAN ACHIEVE ITS PURPOSES.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES ARE FURTHER
REQUESTED TO PROVIDE BY AUGUST 1, 1978 NAMES AND POSITIONS
OF THE EXPERTS WHO WILL REPRESENT THEM AT THE MEETING.

END TEXT. VANCE

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